

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0357

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PBOR, SO, US

SUBJECT: GSDR CRITICIZES UNSC INITIATIVE, TRUCKS TO ETHIOPIA

1. ACTING MINISTTER OF INFORMATION ABDISALAM SHEIKH HUSSEIN CHARGED LAST NIGHT, FEB 24, THAT THE UNITED STATES CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF NON-EXISTING SOMALI REGULAR FORCES IN ORDER TO LEGITIMIZE ETHIOPIA'S REOCCUPATION OF LIBERATED WESTERN SOMALIA. SPEAKED AT A WELL ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE, THE JUSTICE MINISTER, SUBSTITUTING FOR HIS COLLEAGUE WHO IS HEADING A MISSION TO PEKING, ADDED THAT TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THE UNITED STATES HAS RECENTLY DECIDE TO RESUPPLY ETHIOPIA WITH SPARE MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS. ABDISALAM ALSO OBSERVED THAT THESE WESTERN COUNTRIES CLAIM TO HAVE ASSURANCES FROM THE SOVIET UNION THAT (ETHIOPIAN AND) ALLIED FORCES WOULD NOT CROSS THE PROVISIONAL BORDER, A CLEAR INDICATION OF MUTUAL CONSENT BY THE SUPER POWERS TO INTERFERE IN PURELY AFRICAN PROBLEMS. THE ACTING MINISTER WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF THE US INITIATIVE TO TAKE THE MATTERHNTO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, A MOVE H CHARGED WAS WRESTLING THE MATTER FROM AFRICA WHICH WAS TRYING TO FIND A
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PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND TANTAMOUNT TO WINDING THE CLOCK BACK TO THE TIME WHEN AFRICA WAS DIVIDED AGAINST THE WILL OF ITS PEOPLES.

2. THE ACTING MINISTER CONTINUED; QUOTE: THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IS ASTONISHED AT THE AMBIGUOUS AND CONTRADICTIONARY POLICY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. AT FIRST, PRESIDENT CARTER STATED THE U.S. WOULD EXTEND AID TO SOMALIA TO BALANCE RUSSIAN,

CUBAN AND ALLIED MILITARY SUPPLIES TO ABYSSINIA, EVEN THOUGH HE
CONSENTED THAT ISRAEL SUPPLY ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO
ABYSSINIA. NEXT, HE SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT SUPPLY
ARMSASI EVLHER SOMALIA OR ABYSSINIASAS LONG AS THE CONFLICT IN
THE REGION CONTINUED. AND NOW, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SCS
SENDING MILITARY CONSIGNMENTS TO ABYSSINIA* END QUOTE.

3.G ABDISALAM CLOSED HIS FORMAL REMARKS BY STATING THAT THE GSDR
REJECTS ALL ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN WHICH
ARE NOT BASED ON:

- A. IMMEDIATE CEASFIRE
- B. WITHDRAWAL OF EXTERNAL FORCES
- C. NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH THE OAU, AND
- D. RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS WHICH FOLLOWED, ABDISALAM
SAID THE GSDR WOULD DECIDE VERY SOON WHETHER OR
NOT TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL PROTEST TO THE UNITED STATES
GOVT. HE SAID THE QUANTITY OR QUALITY OF U.S. ASSISTNACE TO
ETHIOPIA DOES NOT CONCERN THE GSDR VERY MUCH, WHAT DOES CONCERN
IT IS THE ACT OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO. REPLYING TO A FOLLOW-UP
QUESTION, THE ACTING MINISTER REPEATED HIS STAND, SAYING IT WAS
THE U.S. WILL TO HELP THE ETHIOPIANS THAT MATTERED. ON THE
MILITARY SIDE THE ACTING MINISTER CLAIMED WSLF FORCES ARE ADVANCING
TOWARD DIRE DAWA.

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5. COMMENT: THE GSDR WAS CLEARLY STUNG BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT US TRUCKS AND SPARE PARTS WOULD BE SENT TO ETHIOPIA. THE
INTEMPERATE RESPONSE DISPLAYS A VIRTUAL DESPAIR OF US MOTIVES.
AT THE SAME TIME, THE GSDR CONTINUES TO BEAT ITS OWN PROPAGANDA
DRUMS TO KEEP DOMESTIC SUPPORT IN LINE. WE HAVE REPORTS THAT
THERE WILL BE MAJOR DEMOSTRATIONS OF WORKERS, WOMEN, AND YOUTH
DURING THE NEXT WEEK. THERE IS ONE OTHER INTERESTING ASPECT OF
BOTH THE ACTING MINISTER'S REMARKS AND SIAD'S COMMENTS TO THE
PRESS EARLIER IN THE WEEK. BOTH BELITTLED THE PRESENCE OF SOMALI
REGULAR FORCES IN THE OGADEN, LEADING US TO SPECULATE THAT THE
GSDR WISHES PERHAPS TO COUNTERVENE THE EARLIER ADMISSION THAT ITS
FORCES ARE ENGAGED IN THE OGADEN FIGHTING.

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